



June 10, 2005

## 63-month sentence for cocaine trafficking

A federal judge has sentenced **Ricardo Matos**, 32, of Plainville, Massachusetts, to 63 months in prison for cocaine trafficking. In February, Matos admitted that he intended to sell 141 grams of cocaine that state police detectives, working with a federal drug task force, seized from his car in Providence. Detectives also seized nearly two kilograms of cocaine from Matos' apartment in Plainville.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Torres also fined Matos \$10,000.

At a hearing in February when Matos pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly said that the government could prove that, on November 19, 2004, **Rhode Island State Police** detectives working with the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force** stopped a vehicle that Matos was driving on Dartmouth Street in Providence and arrested him on an outstanding warrant.

Detectives seized 140 grams of cocaine that was hidden behind an ashtray in the vehicle. From Matos' apartment at 71-73 Messenger Street, Plainville, detectives seized 1,854 grams of cocaine, drug-trafficking materials, and \$2,090 in cash.

Matos goes by several aliases, including Reinaldo Villalobos-Lopez, Miguel Alberto Asmar Diaz, and Ricardo Rios.

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The **HIDTA Task Force**, which is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**, investigated the case. **Plainville Police** provided assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch prosecuted the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly represented the government at the plea hearing in February.

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